

Mayors Council of Oklahoma

2016 Mayor of the Nomination Form

1. Personal information and background:

Mayor Craig Thurmond is a Tulsa native that served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He moved to Broken Arrow in 1977. Thurmond has worked in the construction industry for over 35 years. He owns and operates a small business, Thurmond Consulting, located on Main Street in Broken Arrow.

Mayor Craig Thurmond was first elected to City Council in 2001 and served as Vice Mayor from 2003-07 and again from 2010-12 before assuming the office of Mayor in 2012. Thurmond was elected to his first four-year mayoral term in 2013. Thurmond also serves as the Chairman of the Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority and the Broken Arrow Municipal Authority.

2. Contributions significant to the development of the municipality:

Mayor Thurmond's dedication to the development of Broken Arrow continues to grow each year. This year has been one of the busiest for Mr. Thurmond during his term as Mayor. His recent efforts in Washington, D.C. during Infrastructure Week 2016 (May 16 – 23) put Broken Arrow in the national spotlight, as he presented the economic benefits obtained through the City's infrastructure investments.

Mayor Thurmond was one of six elected officials from the National League of Cities (NLC) who attended Capitol Hill briefings advocating for the tax exemption for municipal bonds, reauthorization of the EPA Brownfields Program, and water infrastructure investment. Mayor Thurmond was also featured as a guest blogger on NLC's blog, CitiesSpeak.org.

Through both the Capitol Hill briefing and the blog post, the Mayor was able to promote the Rose District, Broken Arrow's advanced manufacturing sector, and job growth. Thurmond expressed his approach to municipal development in NLC's blog saying, "Investments in modern infrastructure lay the foundations for economic development and growth in all communities. Building streets, bridges, utilities (i.e. water, sewer, electrical, gas, etc.) and making other improvements create jobs. When completed, these projects help a community increase its wealth and its citizens' standard of living."

3. Accomplishments in the community:

Mayor Thurmond has lived in Broken Arrow for almost 40 years and cares about the City's future. He spends a great deal of time promoting *Quality of Life, Health and Safety, and Economic Opportunity*. Several milestones have occurred so far during his time in office as Mayor.

Quality of Life.

Vision and support for the transformation of Broken Arrow's old town Main Street has produced a charming and accessible shopping district, named **The Rose District** in 2012. In November of 2015 the state honored Broken Arrow's Rose District with the *Great Street Award* for its diversity and character. Business continues to boom as more construction has taken place in the Rose District in the last five years, than in the past 50; and business owners are reaping the rewards. The chamber estimates \$30 million in private investment has poured into the area and the results are a unique entertainment and shopping destination.

Opened in 2012 the 165-acre **Chisholm Trail South Park** (Events Park) offers the perfect site to be used by private and public groups for staging and hosting large events that may range in size from 150 to 15,000 people. Chisholm Trail South Park can complement the City's established regional and community parks and provide an outstanding place for new recreational opportunities.

In 2013 the **Military History Museum** has opened in Broken Arrow, just in time for Veteran's Day in 2013. The 6400 square foot museum houses 2,000 exhibits that provide a historical glimpse into our military heritage. City officials invested in the old Franklin Hospital building and expect the museum will be an additional draw to the downtown Rose district.

Currently the City is accepting proposals for Rose District **Creative Arts Center**. This project is a cooperative effort between the Arts and Humanities Council and the City of Broken Arrow. The proposed Creative Arts Center will be an approximately 30,000-square-foot building used to house studios, galleries, classrooms, workshops, and performance venues for visual arts, performing arts, and culinary arts.

Health and Safety.

New Verdigris Water Processing Plant opened in June 2014. The new Verdigris Water Treatment Plant replaced the City's existing plant, which was constructed in 1966 and utilizes a state-of-the-art membrane filtration system. With the new plant, the City will have complete control of its water supply; from primary and secondary disinfection to physically acquiring water from the Verdigris River.

The new **Public Safety Complex** was dedicated in 2013. This state of the art facility houses all divisions of the Police Department, the E911 call center, Fire Department administrative offices and emergency management. In addition, the facility provides for a lobby, theater-style classrooms and a kitchen, which will bring the building to 65,000 square feet.

In 2015 the upgrades to the 29-year-old **Haikey Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Haikey Creek sewage lift station**. The multimillion dollar investment in the jointly held the City of will serve the needs of the western section of the fast growing Broken Arrow community.

Economic Opportunity.

In 2011 **FlightSafety International** opened its state of the art facility in Broken Arrow, becoming a major economic driver for the City. The company generates a \$35-million payroll every year out of their Broken Arrow facility and spends another \$45-million a year with local vendors.

Hillside Drive opened to the public in 2014, completing a strategic roadway along the Broken Arrow Expressway that creates a highly visible retail corridor. Anchored by the Bass Pro facility, the corridor will provide access to the City's Conference Center as well as numerous shops and restaurants.

In 2015 construction began on the **Stoney Creek Conference Center**, expected to be a regional competitor. The 8-acre site just north of Bass Pro Shops in Broken Arrow will include a four-story, 177-room hotel and a 26,000 square foot conference center. The public-private partnership will support the vision for long term economic growth for the community.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Thurmond served with the Council that worked to open the **Broken Arrow History Museum and the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center (BAPS)**. Both opened in 2009, bringing a new world of entertainment opportunities and historical perspectives to residents and visitors.

Of these economic developments Mayor Thurmond said, "While many successes contribute to the overall progress of the City, the milestones listed here are what we like to call "game-changers," events and accomplishments that will affect everyone for years to come."

4. Dedication of office:

For the past 15 years Craig Thurmond has devoted thousands of hours to the support and well-being of Broken Arrow. Our city has a Council-Manager form of government, and the Broken Arrow City Council members are unpaid elected officials. Four of the five Councilors including Mayor Thurmond work full time jobs in addition to serving in these roles. Not only does Thurmond give his personal time to local city meetings and events, he travels across the country representing our City at national committee meetings and municipal organizations.

Along with other residents of Broken Arrow, Mayor Thurmond expressed his feelings about the City last November in the *Tulsa World* saying, "I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the community on the Broken Arrow Council and the joy that it brings in being part of making a difference in the community; it is the best volunteer job that I could have!"

5. Other Areas of Service or Recognition

National

In March of 2015 The National League of Cities (NLC) appointed Mayor Craig Thurmond to Serve on National Election Task Force; a bipartisan task force to raise awareness of city issues during the 2016 presidential election.

Also in 2015, Mayor Thurmond was elected to serve a **two-year term on the National League of Cities Board of Directors**. Over the following two years, Thurmond will participate in six Board of Directors meetings at NLC convenings in Washington and across the nation.

The NLC appointed Thurmond in 2016 to the **Presidential Election Task Force** which aims to position NLC as the "go to" resource on city issues with campaign staff during the election. This includes educating the candidates and their campaign staffs on what cities expect from a new Administration and the types of federal partnerships that will help cities thrive. As a resource and advocate Mayor Craig Thurmond is dedicated to helping to build better communities.

In 2016 Mayor Thurmond was appointed to Chair of the National League of Cities' **Community and Economic Development Steering Committee** responsible for developing policy positions on issues involving housing, community and economic development, land use, recreation and parks, historic preservation, and international competitiveness.

State/ Regional/Local

In 2013 Mayor Craig Thurmond was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Municipal League. In 2015 Mayor Thurmond was appointed to the Indian Nations Council of Government (INCOG) Board of Directors. He is also a Board member of the Tulsa County Vision Authority, member of Tulsa Transportation Task Force since 2015, member of the Tulsa County Conservation District Board of Directors since 1997, and is a former representative on the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.E.T.) Board.

6. Any other information that may assist in the nomination process:

As Builder of the Year honoree, Thurmond has been a member of the Oklahoma State Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa since 1993. He has served on the Tulsa group's board of directors since 1996 and has been recognized as "Builder of the Month" 11 times.

He is a **Certified Flood Plain Manager** in the State of Oklahoma/FEMA (OK-04- 00062) as well as holding a position on the **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's** Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which is tasked with regulation storm water general permits for construction activities. He also remains a **member of a National Committee on Regulatory Reform** which focuses on reducing Federal Government regulations and helped to form its tenets.

Mayor Thurmond has used his excellent professional experience to support his role as Mayor of Broken Arrow. From Flood Plain Management to Regulatory Reform his focus on the careful development of the community, supported by the City's Master Plan, has been enhanced by his knowledge as a **Certified Green Professional Consultant**.